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Two Wilmington University professors are driving creatively

Wilmington University Turns 40!
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Dear Readers,

With each passing year I am continually amazed at the progress and growth of Wilmington University. This year is a particularly important year in the history of the University because it marks our 40th anniversary. For those of you who are alumni, faculty and staff of the University and have watched the school develop, it is remarkable to look back over those 40 years. The school started out small but with a very clear mission: to provide educational opportunities to anyone and everyone with the willingness to learn. Since that founding mission was established in the fall of 1968, Wilmington University has continued to provide those opportunities. No matter how much growth we experience, we will always remember our roots and give each student the personal attention they seek.

In honor of our 40th year I wanted to continue the spirit of giving by offering 40 scholarships to high school students in and around Delaware. The scholarships will be in the amount of $4,000 for each student and spread out over the period of four years. These scholarships, which will be based on scholastic ability, leadership, service and financial need, will open doors to students who may otherwise not have the chance to earn their degrees.

This year Wilmington University has had the chance to provide educational opportunities to prospective students in the Claymont and Middletown areas. Our Claymont location, which is ideal for those students in Northern Wilmington and the Philadelphia area, provides evening courses for working adult students. Our new Middletown location features new, state-of-the-art classroom space and a centralized location for Middletown and Townsend residents. Classes in Middletown are set to begin in January of 2009 and we will offer evening and hybrid classes for added convenience.

This year has also seen the emergence of several distinguished alumni, including the 2009 Delaware Teacher of the Year, Mark Teesdale. Please join me in congratulating Mark, who is a graduate of our Master of Education in Applied Technology program. Mark is only one of more than 26,000 Wilmington University alumni of whom we are extremely proud. We should all take great pride in how far the University has come, and look forward to a challenging but exciting future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack P. Varsalona
President
Choosing Wilmington University was one of the best choices that I have made in my life so far. I fell in love with this school from the start. The teachers really go out of their way to help you and I got spoiled with the personal attention that was always there.

Coming from a small town in Maryland I was really lucky to receive an athletic scholarship for volleyball. It was a privilege to serve as the team captain and earn personal recognition in the conference.

As I reflect on my days at Wilmington University I can think of so many times when individuals went out of their way to help me. Whether I was registering for classes or needed help in the classroom I will always remember the people that took that extra time to help me. This is the spirit of Wilmington University that I will always remember.

I will never forget the opportunities that were given to me at Wilmington University both as an athlete and student in the Criminal Justice Program, and have decided that it is not too early to start giving back. Now is the time to be active in the Alumni Association. Please join me in supporting our University. Your gift of any size will help to provide more scholarships and other benefits that will impact the lives of future generations of Wilmington University students.

Cheyann is committed to supporting Wilmington University in her role as the Alumni Association Athletic Chapter Chair. Her leadership skills and experience as a team player will strengthen the ties we have with our athletes and motivate them to stay connected. Cheyann will be awarded her Master of Science, Administration of Justice degree in January 2009.

Donations to the Annual Fund Drive are always welcome.
To make a donation please use the attached postage paid, addressed envelope. You can also pledge online and locate our matching gift companies by visiting www.wilmu.edu/alumni.
While we in the University Relations Department join the rest of the Wilmington University community in celebrating our 40th year, we also cannot forget our own birthday here at the magazine. It is hard to believe that three years have passed since our first issue, but here we are. Somewhere in the back of the Wilson Graduate Center there is a small group of odd creative-types lighting a novelty birthday candle and wishing for amazing content for the next issue.

Recently, at a writers meeting, that same group of quirky creative-types put forth the suggestion to create a mission statement for this publication. While the mission of most college magazines may be very clear, our mission is somewhat different; understandably, I suppose, since our University is quite different from other colleges and universities in the area.

Many school magazines are simply alumni-based publications with a goal to keep people connected through the power of print. The Wilmington University magazine is also intended for that audience, but in many cases being an alumnus does not mean you have left our halls.

Many of you are back, getting additional degrees and certifications. A lot of you work here, building even greater programs with the passion you had as a Wilmington student. Much of our audience has yet to graduate and is right in the thick of their educational adventure here. And the remainder of our audience is the University faculty and staff, who are right alongside our students on their educational journeys.

We write for all of us that have chosen to be a member of this wonderful institution, and as the editor of this magazine I could not be prouder of the Wilmington University family and all this school has accomplished.

Having said that, I offer humbly this mission statement for the Wilmington University magazine:

“To provide members of the Wilmington University Community, past and present, with a collegial forum to proudly display their combined accomplishments.”

Sincerely,

Christopher Griffin Pitcher
Director of University Relations
Delaware Today and Delaware Bride’s

19TH ANNUAL

bridal show

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Noon to 3pm

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9 PAVING THE WAY
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Meet the Alumni Association, see pictures from the alumni picnic and read about former classmates.

ON THE COVER: Wilmington University faculty, staff and students gathered on the green at the New Castle campus to celebrate 40 years of academic excellence. Photograph by Susan L. Gregg.
**19th Annual Sea Witch Halloween and Fiddler’s Festival**

Trick-or-treaters gathering outside the Wilmington University Rehoboth Beach site were thrilled to receive Wilmington University Slinkys and big, green balloons. The University was one of several businesses that participated in the 19th Annual Sea Witch Festival in Rehoboth. The three-day festival involved a costume parade, broom-tossing contest, peanut-on-the-nose race, kid’s magic shows, a sea witch-hunt and much more.

Wilmington University tied for first place with Crosswinds Motel and Imagine in the Sea Witch-Decorating contest. The University’s Rehoboth Beach staff were congratulated for turning the site located on Rehoboth Avenue into a haunted attraction complete with ghosts, ghouls and skeletons. A hissing snake jumped out at visitors as they walked through the doors.

More than 1,500 people enjoyed the three-day festivities this year. The University cheerleaders, the wildcat mascot and staff participated in the Sea Witch costume parade on Saturday morning, which was full of scary, creative and colorful costumes.

**Students Recognized by Rehoboth Art League**

The Rehoboth Art League recognized two Wilmington University Rehoboth Beach students for their outstanding artwork. **KEN KUSTERER** was awarded the Thomas McFarland Skelly Award for a Painting of Exceptional Merit, Any Media for his painting, “Harry Hay, Hero of Human Liberation,” at the Rehoboth Art League’s 70th annual Members’ Fine Art Exhibition. **KEN CATTERTON** was also recognized and won the Village Improvement Association Award for Local Artists for his acrylic painting of “McCarvey’s Happy Hour.”

Both Kusterer and Catterton credit Wilmington University art professor Linda Minkowski with helping them realize their artistic talents. “Under the leadership of Linda several of us have greatly benefited from both her instruction and critiques,” said Catterton. These students, like many other Wilmington University students, have rediscovered their talents by registering for classes after many years of exploring different career paths.
iTAC Student Earns NASA Scholarship

Senior JOE NOVALANY was one of 10 students in Delaware to be granted the NASA Delaware Space Grant Consortium (DESGC) undergraduate tuition scholarship this year. The scholarship of up to $3,000 (funded by NASA) is awarded yearly to highly qualified undergraduate students in the state of Delaware that are studying science, technology, engineering, mathematics or geography.

Novalany is a Web Information Systems major with a track in Technology. After submitting an application, Novalany received a letter from NASA/DESGC informing him he would be granted the scholarship.

"I feel honored," said Novalany. "I never thought I had the chance to receive such an award and now here I am. A few weeks after receiving the letter from NASA, I also received a letter from Wilmington University congratulating me on my achievement." The letter from Wilmington University went on to say the institution would match the scholarship granted by NASA, meaning Novalany would receive a tuition grant of $6,000. "I would really like to thank Wilmington University and the NASA Delaware Space Grant Consortium for their generosity," said Novalany.

University Awards Scholarships to SEED Graduates

This year the Delaware general assembly introduced Senate Bill 162, better known as the STAR scholarship program. This scholarship program would give students from Delaware’s SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) program the opportunity to complete their education at a four-year institution tuition-free. However, due to financial restraints the legislature was unable to find funding for the continuation of this bill.

"Wilmington University applauds the governor and the general assembly for their efforts to provide this wonderful opportunity to Delaware students," said Wilmington University President DR. JACK P. VARSALONA. In support of their vision, Dr. Varsalona announced this past June that Wilmington University would offer scholarships based on the same principles of the proposed STAR legislation. Twenty SEED program students will be given full tuition to Wilmington University and have the chance to earn their bachelor’s degrees.

"The STAR program is consistent with Wilmington University’s mission of creating educational opportunities for students," said Dr. Varsalona. "I think a lot of these students were counting on the STAR scholarship program to help them continue their education, and Wilmington University is proud to be offering them a helping hand."

Students in the SEED program, that has been in place for the past two years, are offered full or partial scholarships by the state to earn an associate’s degree at Delaware Technical & Community College or the University of Delaware’s associate in arts program. So far the SEED program has helped more than 1,300 students attend college. Wilmington University hopes to provide these SEED program graduates with the opportunity to earn their bachelor’s degree.

QUINCY LUCAS is a Delaware teacher, a supporter of victim’s rights, and a doctoral student at Wilmington University. Sitting in her home in Dover, Del., she received a phone call that would thrust her into the spotlight and bring some of the issues she had been fighting for to light. She was asked to give a speech at the Democratic National Convention to officially nominate Joe Biden for Vice President of the United States of America. Naturally, she accepted and in less than 24 hours was flown out to Denver, Col., to speak in front of a crowd of thousands and a TV audience of millions.

Lucas is completing a Doctor of Education at Wilmington University’s Dover location. She became an advocate for victim’s rights and domestic violence awareness after her sister was brutally murdered by her ex-boyfriend. “Violence against women often happens in the shadows, out of public view. Since that time I have devoted my life to bring it to light,” said Lucas in her official nominating speech.

“But I realize sometimes to change lives you have to change the law.” Lucas went on to commend Biden for writing and supporting the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. “In memory of my sister and in the name of women all across this country, I am proud to place into nomination the name of Joe Biden to be our next vice president,” said Lucas.

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Thousands Raised for MS in Bike to the Bay

A group of 22 Wilmington University staff, faculty, family and friends participated in the annual Bike MS: NRG Energy Indian River Power Plant Bike to the Bay this past September in Dover, Del. Bike to the Bay is a bike ride from Dover to Rehoboth and is a fundraiser to help find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

The Wilmington University team chose to do the bike ride in support of Nicole Purcell-Rowe, Executive Administrative Assistant for Chris Pitcher, who was diagnosed with MS in 2007.

Purcell-Rowe spoke to the team about MS. “Thank you all for coming here today to hear my story and struggles,” said Purcell-Rowe. “By doing this, you are raising money to hopefully find a cure for this awful disease, help those with the disease get medical equipment, help with financial issues and many more things. So thank you!”

The Wilmington University team raised more than $12,000 and ranked in the top 10 out of 137 teams. Eileen Donnelly, assistant vice president of enrollment management, was team captain. “This is my third year riding,” said Donnelly. “The first year I did it for a challenge, but then the more you participate in the event, the more you meet people, and friends and family of people, who are affected by MS and it motivates you to get others involved to find a cure.”

TEACHER OF THE YEAR SPEAKS AT STUDENT TEACHER ORIENTATION

Kimberly Oliver Burnim was the 2006 National Teacher of the Year and a Wilmington University alumna, spoke at the Division of Education’s Student Teacher Orientation this past August. Around 90 Wilmington University graduate and undergraduate Education students gathered to participate in this orientation that is designed to prepare students to be successful student teachers.

Out of 49 other teachers across the country, a nationwide committee selected Oliver Burnim to become National Teacher of the Year, and she was honored at a ceremony held at the White House by President George W. Bush.

Oliver Burnim took the stage saying she was happy to be there and part of the excitement of starting student teaching. She shared the memories of her first day student teaching and said there are a few things to note about teaching. The first is that it is probably one of the most difficult professions out there, but it is also very rewarding. The second is to keep learning. “You have to make sure you are up to the challenge of teaching,” said Oliver Burnim, “and your learning should not stop here. You have to take classes and continue learning and growing if you are going to stay one step ahead of the kids you teach.”

Thirdly, Oliver Burnim said to build a relationship with your students, their parents and with your colleagues. “I don’t think you can be a successful teacher if you don’t know how to establish those relationships. If you don’t know your students and what makes them tick, then you won’t be reaching out to all your students.”

Kimberly Oliver Burnim was the 2006 National Teacher of the Year.
NEW YORK CITY NATIVE NELLY SAVINON HAS A LOT TO BE PROUD OF. NOT ONLY IS SHE THE FIRST GRADUATE OF WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY’S BURLINGTON COUNTY COLLEGE LOCATION, BUT SHE IS ALSO THE FIRST PERSON IN HER FAMILY TO RECEIVE A BACHELOR’S DEGREE.

In January 2009 Savinon will walk across the stage at the Chase Center in Wilmington to receive her degree. Her family will be there for support and maybe some friends from the military. “I’m very happy to be graduating,” said Savinon, who completed her Associate’s degree at Burlington County College before continuing her education at Wilmington University, “It has been a lot of hard work.”

Like many other Wilmington University students Nelly Savinon truly understands the meaning of hard work. In less than a year Savinon completed her Bachelor’s degree while working a full-time job in the United States Air Force. How did she do it? You might ask, and the answer is very little sleep, a little bit of juggling and a controlled timeline. “I took about six or seven classes a semester,” sighs Savinon, thinking back on the experience. “I had to complete my degree before my military service was up, so I knew I had to take as many classes as I could.” Most people called her crazy for taking on such a workload. “What’s more is that I would work 45 hours a week and help military personnel in their careers. It was very stressful! Some nights I couldn’t sleep because I would dream about work and school, it was horrible.”

Having such a hectic schedule forced Savinon to come up with some creative ways of studying. “I remember one weekend I had to write a 20-page paper for school and I was at a designated military location in the woods. We were situated in a tent in the woods in the middle of nowhere and I had to write my paper on my laptop, between running around doing things for work. My co-workers were all laughing at me but I finally got it done and emailed it to my professor.”

Savinon decided to take her Bachelor of Science in Psychology because she has always been fascinated with the human mind. “Since I was young I’ve always wanted to be a psychologist,” said Savinon, “I’ve been through a lot in my own life, so I want to use that to help people in their lives. I want to learn more about the human brain and find out how better nutrition and exercise can affect depression.”

In her last semester at Wilmington University, Savinon took on the most classes she had ever taken: eight. In August 2008 all her hard work paid off and she was conferred to graduate in the January 2009 commencement ceremonies.

Now that Savinon has completed her degree she has been job hunting back in New York City. She is not really sure what her future will bring, but she hopes her Wilmington University degree will help. “I have also been thinking about going back to graduate school. Maybe I will get a degree in social work or counseling.”

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TURNER AND TESTA NAMED FIRST-TEAM ALL-REGION

Softball standout KATIE TURNER (Smyrna HS/Smyrna, DE) was named to the NCAA Daktronics All-Northeast Region First Team, and to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Northeast Region Second Team for her performance this past season. Baseball star BRIAN TESTA (St. Elizabeth’s HS/Wilmington, DE) was also named to the Daktronics All-Northeast Region First Team. The All-Region teams were chosen by the head coaches in the Northeast Region, which includes teams in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC), the East Coast Conference and the Northeast 10 Conference.

Turner, a sophomore right-hander, went 16-8 with a 1.18 ERA in 30 appearances. She led the CACC in earned run average and saves, while she was second in wins, opponents’ batting average and strikeouts. She ranked 22nd in Division II in earned run average and 13th in the nation in saves. Four of her eight losses were by a score of 1-0, and she never lost a game by more than two runs, keeping the Wildcats in the hunt every time she was on the mound.

She becomes the first Wilmington softball player to earn first-team NCAA Daktronics All-Region honors, and only the third Wildcat softball member in school history to have earned NFCA All-Region honors, when Wilmington made the move to NCAA Division II in 2004.

The Wildcats finished fifth in the regular season with a 16-8 record in the CACC and an overall record of 29-19. They also qualified for the CACC Play-...
MEN’S SOCCER NATIONALLY RANKED FOR FIRST TIME IN PROGRAM HISTORY

The Wilmington University men’s soccer team was ranked 23rd in the nation in a September Poll released by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

The national and regional rankings are voted upon by the coaches in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC), the East Coast Conference and the Northeast-10 Conference.

The squad was also ranked as high as third in the East region, which marks the highest ranking the team has received. The national ranking is the first in program history, since the Wildcats became members of the NCAA in 2004.

Wilmington is coming off a 2007 season that saw the team capture their first-ever CACC tournament championship. The 2008 team returns eight starters and will be led by junior forward SARGBAH TARPEH, who was a first-team All-Conference selection the last two seasons. Wilmington also welcomes back two second-team All-Region players in junior defender SELEKIE KAMARA and sophomore defender BILLY CURRAN. The Wildcats finished with a 12-5-2 overall record and a 7-1-1 conference mark last year.

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The Wildcats welcome two new members to their coaching staff, as Josh Ruggiero has been promoted to women’s soccer head coach and Jaime Neave has been hired to lead the women’s lacrosse program.

JOSH RUGGIERO was the top assistant to former women’s soccer coach Dave Bugda during the past two seasons. He played for two years as a goalkeeper for the men’s team at Wilmington, and was the starting keeper for the Wildcats’ 2003 squad that captured the CACC regular season championship. Ruggiero is a former All-CACC selection, having posted an astounding 0.86 goals-against average in 2003, followed by a 1.39 average in 2004.

Prior to coming to Wilmington, Ruggiero worked with an Under-11 girls’ team at the Kirkwood Soccer Club and spent the 2005 season as an assistant coach at Division III Widener University, where he was in charge of goalkeeping and defense.

JAIME NEAVE comes to the Wildcats from Christiana High School, where she was the head women’s lacrosse coach for the past three seasons. A graduate of Towson University, Coach Neave was a four-year starter and standout defender for the Tigers, and captained the squad her senior season. She also was named Most Valuable Player during the 2001 campaign, and was selected to participate on the North/South Division I All-Star Team.

Prior to coaching at Christiana, Neave served as the junior varsity girls’ lacrosse coach at Interboro High School. She also spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Towson. For five years, Neave was a head coach at the All-American Lacrosse Camp at the University of Maryland.
WILMINGTON HOSTS NCAA DIVISION II MEN’S GOLF SUPER REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

This past May, Wilmington University hosted the NCAA Division II Men’s Golf Super Regional Tournament at Back Creek Golf Course in Middletown, Del.

Overall, 80 teams and 50 individuals participated in the Super Regional Tournament. There are five Super Regional events that encompass the current 10 regions. Wilmington hosted the Northeast and East regions at the par-71, 6,505-yard course.

It marked the first time that a Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) institution has ever hosted a NCAA Golf Super Regional event. Wilmington made their first-ever appearance at a NCAA regional tournament, and finished eighth among the eight teams.

Dominican College senior Brian Mackey won the tournament after finishing regulation tied with a golfer from the East Region and forcing a playoff hole with an improbable finish.

Mackey, a senior from Chestnut Ridge, NY, needed to shoot for par to tie or a birdie to win against Jared Schmader of Clarion University. With a crowd of more than 50 people watching, Mackey hit an amazing 75-foot putt that sent the crowd into a frenzy of applause and forced the playoff hole. He advanced to the NCAA DII Men’s Golf Championships, held at the Spring National Championships Festival in Houston, Texas, where he finished 32nd.

“It was an honor hosting the first-ever Super Regional event in school history,” stated Frank Aiello, Wilmington’s Athletic Director. “The staff worked extremely hard to pull off this event, and it was done beautifully. We received numerous compliments on how well run the tournament was, and many people said it was one of the best ever. We are thankful for members of the athletic department, the staff at Back Creek, Delaware State Golf Association, and the NCAA for making this a tremendous success.”

CACC HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL SILLY OLYMPICS FOR WISHES

Eighty-four student-athletes representing the 13 Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) institutions convened at Georgian Court University on September 7, to participate in the first annual Silly Olympics for Wishes. The Silly Olympics, which helped raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, was the brainchild of the CACC Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). With the help of the student-athletes and numerous administrators around the conference, the event was a huge success and raised more than $500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

“The Silly Olympics was an idea that we had to promote sportsmanship and engagement between the student-athletes in our conference, and from the success of the day I think that we accomplished those goals,” said Georgian Court’s Heather Walker, the CACC’s representative to the national SAAC. “It is exciting to see this idea come to life and I hope that we can make it an annual event. It was great to see everyone come together, have fun and truly enjoy the day!”

The group of student-athletes split into 10 teams and created unique team names, with each squad wearing different colored CACC Silly Olympics t-shirts. Student-athletes who might
STUDENT-ATHLETES AWARDED END-OF-YEAR HONORS

Wilmington University honored student-athletes for their performances during the 2007-2008 season. Each coach chose a Most Valuable Player and Wildcat Award recipient. The Wildcat Award recipient best exemplified the qualities of leadership and school spirit, and promoted the values of the University on the field and in the local community. The following student-athletes were honored:

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
MVP – Rory Kauffman
Wildcat – Danielle Burcham

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
MVP – Joe Debus
Wildcat – Joey Boggis

VOLEYBALL
MVP – Cheyann Gilroy
Wildcat – Shannon Freel

WOMEN’S SOCCER
MVP – Begum Malali
Wildcat – Stacey Spilman

MEN’S SOCCER
MVP – Dan Mangat
Wildcat – Rob Traynor

BRIAN SCHOLL MEMORIAL AWARD -
Oren Segev

MEN’S BASKETBALL
MVP – Antonio Sherrod
Wildcat – Allen Hairston

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
MVP – Amelia Simmons
Wildcat – Nordia Henry and Sherrellie Holmes

WOMEN’S LACROSSE
MVP – Colby Bugda
Wildcat – Amanda Beasley and Amber Smith

SOFTBALL
MVP – Katie Turner
Wildcat – Katie Walsh

BASEBALL
MVP – Cody Holliday
Wildcat – Brian Testa

RICKY RUBINI AWARD -
Matt Gianni

GOLF
MVP – Lorne Shannon
Wildcat – Vince Nardo

CHEERLEADING
MVP – Ashley Swarter
Wildcat – Ashley Swarter

HIGHEST TEAM GPA -
Women’s Soccer and Baseball

HIGHEST GPA SENIOR ATHLETE AWARD
Nicole Hays (Softball)
Greg Cope (Men’s Soccer)

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETE AWARD
Begum Malali (Women’s Soccer)
Brian Testa (Baseball)

have been rivals on the field worked together in events such as tug-of-war, relay races, dizzy bat and a three-legged race. The event was followed by a barbeque on the GCU campus.

The winning team was composed of nine student-athletes, including Buddy Riggs of the Caldwell baseball team, Amanda Feldman of the Wilmington women’s basketball team, Emily Horrocks of the Bloomfield women’s basketball team, Rob Fisher of the Philadelphia baseball team, Shanice Scully of the Dominican women's basketball team, Brandon Williams of the Chestnut Hill men’s basketball team, Karol Gomez of the Georgian Court soccer team and Stedford McLeod of the Nyack men’s basketball team. The team received certificates for earning the victory.

"The CACC Silly Olympics for Wishes was a great event for the student-athletes who attended and the conference as a whole," said CACC Associate Commissioner Bernadette Macca. "I give these student-athletes a lot of credit for having a vision of what they wanted and then putting in the time and effort necessary to make it a reality."

Wilmington University’s participants were MEGAN WHALEN and KIRSTEN STALLONE of the women’s soccer team, AMANDA CORDREY and HEATHER KARASEK of the softball team, and DENISE CRUDUP, DANIELLE THOMAS and AMANDA FELDMAN of the women’s basketball team.
Movies, television shows, and magazines are declaring “40 is the new 20” and 40 has become a reason to celebrate. Amongst the birthday boys and girls is our very own Wilmington University, who is proudly turning the big 4-0 this year. It was 40 years ago this fall when Wilmington College, as it was then known, welcomed its first charter class of 194 students. In celebration of Wilmington University’s 40th birthday, the magazine would like to take a look at just how far we’ve come.

THE EARLY YEARS

Wilmington College began on the foundations of an old motel and gas station in New Castle. Students were attracted to the new college because, unlike other col-
Leges and universities in the area, Wilmington College was offering something different: educational opportunities for students with a family and a full-time job. The new College offered three real-world majors taught by eight full-time faculty: Political Science, English and Business Administration.

**GROWING UP FAST**
As time went on, Wilmington College began to grow and change. By the mid 1990s, Wilmington College had four locations in Northern and Southern Delaware, offered undergraduate and graduate degrees and had just introduced a Doctor of Education degree. Under the leadership of President Dr. Audrey K. Doberstein, the College continued to stay true to its roots and ensure that the student always came first.

**REASON TO CELEBRATE**
Soon Wilmington University welcomed a new President, Dr. Jack Varsalona. Through his commitment and guidance, the school saw even more change: Wilmington College officially became a University. By the fall of 2008, the University had 11 locations, more than 26,000 alumni throughout the world, 53 degree programs, eight online degrees and a student body of more than 11,500. After 40 years, Wilmington University has a lot to be proud of. From the first 22 students that crossed under the arches at the New Castle campus in 1968 to the 2,400 graduates who received their diplomas in 2008, to the alumni who gathered with old friends at the alumni picnic, Wilmington University would like to thank you all for making these first 40 years a reason to celebrate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Wilmington College opens in New Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Learning Resource Center is built</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>First graduating class of Wilmington College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Dover Air Force Base location opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Receives accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>First graduate programs are offered (MBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Dr. Audrey K. Doberstein becomes president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Georgetown location opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Pratt Student Center is completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Classes offered in Dover, Silver Lake site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Doctor of Education degree is introduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Dormitories close, becomes a commuter school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>The Robert C. and Dorothy M. Peoples Library opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Rehoboth Beach location opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Admissions and Classroom Center opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Dover location opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Dr. Jack P. Varsalona becomes president</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Wilson Graduate Center Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Doctor of Business Administration is introduced</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Three New Jersey locations are introduced</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Classes offered in Claymont</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Celebration of 40 years of academic excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Middletown location opens</td>
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THIS YEAR WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY WILL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF ACADEMIC
excellence with parties, fundraisers, community service projects and the burying of a time capsule. In celebration of its first
40 years, President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona also announced that the school would be presenting 40 scholarships to 40 new students
this year. The University has come a long way in the past 40 years, just take a look at some of these pictures of Wilmington
University throughout the years.
After a 24-year military career in the United States Army, I moved here from New York and decided to complete my degree in Human Resources Management. I wanted to attend an institution with a great reputation that would provide me the tools needed to excel in the business world. After doing a little research and visiting schools in the area, I soon found Wilmington University.

My experiences at Wilmington University were full of hard times and good times. All I can say is that my experiences at the University have helped me to become a more open-minded individual. All those long days, nights and weekends spent at the school have given me a greater appreciation of what it takes to follow your dreams.

A year after I graduated, I became involved with the Alumni Association. I just wanted to do something for the school that gave me an opportunity to receive an excellent education. I became President of the Association in 2003 and had the chance to meet so many different people from the academic and local communities. As President, I was asked to represent the Association at special events, and was lucky to work with a group of very motivated, energetic and wonderful individuals who just wanted to stay connected and give back to their school.

The University has changed a lot since I was in school. With all the changes that Wilmington University has gone through over the past several years, the one thing that has impressed me the most is the fact that the school has not lost their focus on giving the students the very best educational experience possible.”

“Having taught at Wilmington University since the doors opened in 1968, I have witnessed many changes. In that year the new college moved into the former Tour Inns Motor Court, and the motor court’s guest rooms served as dormitories. During those early days most of the students were from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In order to present what was believed to be a more conservative image during the turbulent 1960s, the college instituted a dress code for students. Males had to wear coats and ties and could not have long hair, mustaches or beards. Dresses or skirts were required for all females. A person was stationed at the door of the registrar and would send inappropriately dressed students off for a clothing change or to rid themselves of some hair. This obviously proved unpopular and faded out in a year.

Today computers calculate GPAs and prior to that the registrar employed GPA charts. During the first year here GPAs were calculated by the eight original faculty members (including myself) sitting around a table with pens and paper in hand. A master list of students could not be located, so we just called out names from each class roster to document all the students, compile their various grades and work out their GPAs.

Things have changed since those first days, but one constant has remained: the sense of family. Over the years there has always been a strong feeling of community among the students, alumni, faculty and staff of Wilmington University.”
"Coming from a small high school, I was initially very interested in Wilmington University because of its small class sizes. The school was also appealing because I wanted to pursue college sports and I was recruited by the University coach at the time. Thirdly, I wanted to go to Wilmington because I just fell in love with the campus.

As a freshman I didn’t know anyone and I was a little nervous. I started soccer training the summer before classes began and it gave me a chance to feel out the student body. The girls in the soccer team were so welcoming, and being on the team has allowed me to grow as an athlete as well as a person. I’ve been captain of the team for the past two years and I try to keep up the morale and be supportive to new members.

The coaches have always pushed me to succeed. From the get-go they help us understand that we are a student first, then an athlete. The staff is willing to go above and beyond to help the students, and that’s what I love about Wilmington University — you just don’t find that anywhere else.

I worked two jobs while earning my degree and although I had to juggle, it wasn’t overwhelming. Wilmington University really cares for the ‘real’ student and gives you the chance to work full time, go to school and still achieve what you want to in the classroom. Once I graduate I intend to come back to Wilmington University to get my master’s degree and hopefully work here. I love this school so much that I want to give back to it."

“...In 1992, I dropped out of college because my mother had passed away. She was my biggest fan, and I only wanted to hand her my diploma. Eight years later, a great opportunity came my way, but it was assumed that I had my bachelor’s degree. When I found out that having that degree was a condition for this great job, I scrambled to finish. From not going to class for eight years to suddenly going twice a week, I was immediately put back into the habit of school.

My new employer had a wonderful professional development program, so continuing was really a no-brainer. I decided to enroll at Wilmington University in Dover to continue my education. Just over a year later, I finished a Master of Education degree and at about that same time, a great new facility opened at the Dover site. Since I’d found Wilmington to be such a friendly, enabling environment, I decided to try to join the first Dover doctoral cohort.

In 2008, I officially became Dr. Steven Hicks and defended my dissertation. After seven years of coming to the University at least once a week, and countless hours of study, Wilmington University was more familiar to me than my own home! When I had no real reason to go to campus, I felt really lonely and missed the atmosphere. When a Wilmington University job posting crossed my desk, I was thrilled to apply. Today, I help market Wilmington University to potential students, but it really isn’t marketing, it is pointing out the obvious to the unaware — come be part of this family. Wilmington University is more than just an education, it is a life-changing experience.”

DR. STEVEN HICKS
Marketing Coordinator, Wilmington University

CAITLIN ROBINSON
Current Wilmington University Student, Captain of the Soccer Team
Summer Book Drive

The Delaware Beta Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu organized its first book drive and successfully delivered children’s books to two daycare centers in the area.

In November 2007, Judy Pantalino was inducted into the Delaware Beta Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society for the Social Sciences, at Wilmington University. Pantalino was honored to be invited to be a member of the society and wanted to be active in the Beta chapter. She is one of five charter members to become an officer of the chapter.

As a service project requirement, the Chapter organized a book drive and chose two daycare centers for the donations: Claymont Community Center and the Latin American Community Center. Focused on summertime reading and literacy for young children, the honor society collected more than 250 children’s books through donation boxes at the New Castle campus and Wilson Graduate Center. Pantalino and Professor Johanna Bishop, the chapter faculty advisor, delivered the books and videos donated by caring professors and students to the Latin American Community Center in September.

Upon entering the community center, they were met by several children. “They were so excited to see such a variety of books and videos,” recalls Pantalino, “We could barely get the books out of the boxes quickly enough for them. One of the staff members read from a new book and the children were eager listeners. The excitement showed in their eyes and smiles.”

“It was an amazing afternoon for me,” said Judy Pantalino, “I was very excited to be part of this book delivery. The community center was very thankful and they are interested in more deliveries. I look forward to being part of our next book drive.”
WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

The Division of Behavioral Science would like to welcome two extraordinary faculty members to the division: Dr. Debra Berke and Stephanie Berridge.

Dr. Debra Berke joins the division as the new associate professor and coordinator of the Psychology program. Dr. Berke taught her first course at Wilmington University in 1993 and went on to teach at several institutions, including Penn State University and the University of Delaware, the institution from which she holds her doctorate. Most of her academic career was spent at Messiah College where she taught in the Human Development and Family Science department and coordinated the Women's Studies minor. Dr. Berke has published and lectured on topics including work and family, sexuality, family policy and teaching family science.

Stephanie Berridge has been an adjunct faculty member teaching at several colleges and universities in the tri-state region, including Wilmington University since 1995. When enrollment at the New Jersey sites grew over the past year and the University was searching for a full-time faculty member to teach across divisions, Berridge, with her diverse background, fit the bill. Berridge has worked in the financial services industry for 25 years. She is in the dissertation phase of the Executive Leadership doctoral program at The George Washington University and anticipates graduating in 2009. Berridge will teach behavioral science, business and general studies courses.

An Interview with Stephen Martelli

On September 9, Steve Martelli won the Democratic primary in the 8th District for a seat on Wilmington’s City Council. Since he has no opponent in the November general election, Mr. Martelli will be seated to the Council on January 3, 2009. He is currently a student in the Administration of Justice master’s degree program (2009), and received his undergraduate degree in General Studies in 2007.

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY: WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

Stephen Martelli: My entire adult life has been in public service, beginning with my enlistment in the Marine Corps to my current role as a staff and adjunct faculty member at Delaware Technical & Community College. In the years in between I served the citizens of the City of Wilmington as a police officer for 14 years and spent three years overseas as a member of the CIVPOL program, training police officers in post conflict environments, specifically Iraq and Kosovo.

Wilmington City Council seemed to be the next logical progression in my public service, as I believe it gives me the opportunity to serve the City of Wilmington on an entirely different level; going from the operational level to the strategic level.

WU: WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE AS A CITY COUNCILMAN?

SM: I believe I can contribute a fresh perspective, responsive representation and progressive leadership concepts. I firmly believe that in order to solve some of the problems we face, we need people who are not afraid to look at alternative problem solving techniques and not rely simply on ‘business as usual’ practices.

WU: HOW HAS YOUR EDUCATION AT WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU?

SM: I can’t say enough positive things about my experiences at Wilmington University. I am proud to be associated with this institution. The personal commitment and concern for students I’ve witnessed at the undergraduate and graduate level are beyond comparison. If I am able to mirror the same commitment to residents I know I will be a successful councilman.

I believe one of the things that helped me win and prepared me for this seat is my educational experience at Wilmington University. Because of the format of most of my courses, which has been to engage students and encourage discourse, I’ve had an opportunity to listen to the ideas, thoughts and concerns of other students. This is vital for any elected official. Couple the format with the instructors being experts in their particular disciplines and I’ve received a diverse, well rounded and excellent education that is relevant to executive leadership in criminal justice in today’s society.
General Studies and Student Affairs held Decision 2008 in honor of Constitution Day, featuring guest speaker Jose Tapia from MTV’s “Real World: Key West.”

Benjamin Franklin, who was handing out copies of the Constitution, and Johanna Adams, Dean of General Studies, thanked the students for coming and taking an active interest in politics.

Matt Botting, a Sports Management student, said, “I just registered to vote recently and I’m interested in finding out more. I haven’t really caught up on all the issues and I would like to become more aware.”

Troy Grandel, Coordinator for the General Studies program, spoke on the history of the Constitution and Constitution Day. “Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution,” said Grandel. “Our country has the oldest federal Constitution still in use today in the world. We have a lot of rights granted to us through this Constitution, but one of our most important rights is the right to vote.”

Jose Tapia was then introduced. He welcomed the crowd and gave them a little background about himself. Since appearing in MTV’s “Real World: Key West” in 2006, he has been traveling the country and speaking on topics such as...
politics, diversity, inspiration and leadership.

“I feel it’s a great way to go out there and spread the political word,” said Tapia, “It’s so important to stay informed, know the issues and do the research.” During his presentation, Tapia spoke on issues such as the Iraqi war, health care, the economy, education, abortion and more. He broke the issues down by party lines and explained where each presidential nominee stood on each issue.

Tapia encouraged young people to vote, saying in the last few elections the number of young voters has steadily increased. He once again stressed the importance of voting and getting involved politically. “Get out there and do the research,” said Tapia. “Find out who you agree with more and vote, because your vote does count!”

Wilmington University students enrolled in HUM 341 (Native Americans) at the Georgetown Campus attended a Native Americans Festival in September as part of their requirements for the course. The festival is held annually and sponsored by the Nanticoke Indian Association located in Millsboro, Del. Students were able to observe Native American traditions as re-enacted by Native Americans from across the United States. The festival featured dances, religious observances, customs, exhibits and many other facets of Native American culture. As part of their assignment, the students interviewed Native Americans who were involved in the event and wrote a paper expressing their thoughts and observations. This is the second year that HUM 341 has been offered in Georgetown and the instructor, Cheyene Luzader, believes this experience helps her students get a better understanding of Native American culture. The course is growing in popularity and will be offered again in the fall of 2009.

A student changes her clothing and hair color while hovering 100 feet in the air, and then teleports over to a sandy beach where her laboratory group is meeting for the day. Sound impossible? Perhaps in real life, but not in the online 3-D world of Second Life, a virtual world where students can create a digital representation of themselves (an avatar) and interact with other students and professors on the web.

Dr. Meredith Wesolowski, a recent hire at Wilmington University, has been teaching an online biology laboratory course through University of Delaware’s distance learning program for more than a year. “The course is fun to teach, and I really get to know my students — perhaps even better than if we were meeting face-to-face!” said Dr. Wesolowski. “We get to experience nearly all the same interactions and visual cues we would in real life, even though we are sometimes hundreds of miles away!”

This unique course and its use of technology won Dr. Wesolowski two awards for innovative teaching from the University of Delaware: the Exemplary Use of Technology in Teaching Award and the Innovative Teaching Award in Distance Education.

As Wilmington University’s Instructional Technology Coordinator, Dr. Wesolowski hopes to stir up interest in instructional technology use. “The folks in Educational Technology and Distance Learning have done a great job getting faculty to use technology in their courses, and I look forward to helping extend those efforts,” she said. “Technology use doesn’t have to be sophisticated to have an impact on instruction — even small things can make a huge difference.”

To contact Dr. Wesolowski you can contact her avatar, Meredith Snookums, in Second Life.
IT TOOK MORE THAN 15 MONTHS from the date of their marriage, but Dr. Robert Edelson and his bride, Jane Fox, finally were able to enjoy the wedding gift certificate given to them by faculty and staff of the Business Division. Edelson is the Dean of the Business Division at Wilmington University.

Just before sunset, on a romantic Friday evening, August 1, 2008, with the promise of “gentle breezes and a soft landing,” Bob and his bride lifted off on a one-hour Magical Mystery hot-air balloon flight out of Media, Pa.

“It was very different from flying in an airplane,” Edelson said, “We traveled with the wind and at times we were as low as 100 feet and at other times as high as 1,000 feet. The 360-degree, panoramic view was spectacular, and the hardest part of the flight was getting my 6-foot-4 body into and out of the basket!”

NEW ELECTIVE

BMK300, Design for Marketing, will be offered for the first time in Spring 2009, Block 1, as a weekend module.

Instructor CHRISTINE FISCHER, a local brand design consultant and educator, will offer business and communications design students an opportunity to discover and understand the role of design in marketing communications.

“The emphasis will be on brand identity,” said Fischer. “Students will have an
In an effort to streamline and more equitably distribute responsibilities and functions, the Business Division recently reorganized into three directorships.

**Lynda Fuller** is now director of all undergraduate Management programs and has oversight responsibility for the division’s overall outcomes assessment.

**Dr. Clint Roberson** is director of all Master’s Business programs and responsible for relationship marketing, particularly in New Jersey.

**Dr. Don Duran-Detta** remains director of the DBA program, and Dr. Bob Edelson, Business Division Dean, will continue to oversee the coordinators of all undergraduate Accounting, Finance and Marketing programs.

Human Resource Management Coordinator Stephanie Narvell’s duties have been expanded to include the development, staffing and coordinating of all Business Management and Business Law distance-learning courses. Sports Management Coordinator Janice Wardle is now also responsible for scheduling and assigning faculty for business management and business law courses in New Jersey, as well as internship evaluations.

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**‘NATURAL’-IZED STUDENTS**

Dr. Clint Robertson (center), director of Graduate Business Studies, attended the U.S. Department of Customs and Immigration naturalization ceremony where two Wilmington University graduates were sworn in as U.S. Citizens. The two new U.S. citizens are (from left) Ama Amadhe (Christopher Benson) from Nigeria, and Anas Ben Addi from Morocco. Christopher has his own photography and recording company, and Anas is the Housing Finance Administrator for the Delaware State Housing Authority.

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**OFTENED**

Opportunity to explore and critique brand expressions including print materials, website, video and television advertising. They will also be introduced to basic visual aesthetics and the relevance of good design.

The course will be offered on a Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday all day the weekends of February 27 to March 1 and March 13-15. There is no prerequisite for this course; it will be cross-listed as DSN300.

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**BUSINESS DIVISION REORGANIZES**

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WELCOMING A NEW DEAN

Meet the new dean of iTAC, Dr. Edward Guthrie.

The division also wishes a fond farewell to former dean Dr. Jack Nold, who retired in the fall.

DurinG the latter part of September, Dr. Edward L. Guthrie was appointed Dean of the Information Technology and Advanced Communication Division. Guthrie filled the vacancy left with the retirement of Dean Jack Nold.

Guthrie comes from Idaho State University, where he served as the Department Chair for the Technical Department in the College of Technology. While at Idaho State, he managed technology programs both at the Pocatello Campus and ISU Boise Campus. He further instructed in the Sociology Department and Workforce Training Division. Workforce Training involved designing supervisory development.

ITAC STUDENT

Wilmington University student GEORGE MURPHY earned a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when he won a contest hosted by Radio 104.5 FM. Murphy won a chance to play the melodica on stage with rock band Weezer at their concert on September 26. Murphy was one of 30 musicians that won the chance to meet Weezer before performing three songs with them at the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, NJ.

"I am beside myself," said Murphy as he prepared for the Saturday night show. "I really wasn’t expecting this to happen." It all started with a call for video submissions from Radio 104.5 FM. Participants were asked to play their favorite Weezer song and post it on YouTube. The participants who got the highest number of votes would have a chance to play with the band.
programs for local industry. He also was part of the team that conducted training for new faculty members and served on the committee that designed and implemented a new faculty mentoring program as well as teaching in both programs.

Prior to that, Guthrie served more than 30 years in law enforcement. His career included serving in Salisbury, Md., for more than 20 years, ultimately as Deputy Chief of Police and Acting Chief of Police. In 1999, he was appointed Chief of Police for the city of Pocatello, Idaho. During his tenure in Idaho, new technology began to be used within the agency, including computer-aided dispatching, implementation of a new digital radio system and the introduction of less-than-lethal-force weapons and policies. The Pocatello Police Department was fully accredited in 2003 and remains the first and only police department in Idaho to achieve national accreditation through the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. Guthrie has also served as an adjunct instructor for several years in both Maryland and Idaho teaching in the areas of management, supervision and criminal justice. In 2004, he received the “Director’s Community Leadership Award” from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Guthrie graduated from Wilmington University with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Innovation as well as previously earning a Master’s degree in Human Resource Management from Wilmington University. He is also a graduate of the 162nd session of the FBI National Academy.

“I am excited about working with the members of the iTAC Division and truly enjoy watching students grow academically and professionally,” Guthrie said. There is no greater reward than seeing students succeed and working with colleagues who share this philosophy. It is a privilege to work at Wilmington University and be part of the dedicated people of this institution.”

Guthrie’s wife Connie is the Director of Financial Aid, and they recently moved back to the area to be closer to family.

Murphy had a natural advantage over the competition. A Studio Production and Digital Filmmaking major at Wilmington University, he has always had a strong interest in film and music. “I’m a musician and actor,” said Murphy, “although I tend to lean more towards music.”

Being an avid Weezer fan, Murphy decided to submit a video to the contest in hopes of playing with one of his favorite bands. “I’ve been listening to Weezer since I was four years old,” admits Murphy. “When I was young my brother Kenn Koubek, who is also a Wilmington University graduate, used to drive around with me in the back and listen to Weezer. I’ve loved them ever since.”

After submitting the video, he sent out an email to everyone he knew asking for their votes. The next thing he knew, more than 500 people had voted for him and the voting continued. Then he got a phone call from the radio station congratulating him on the win.

On the big night, Murphy, along with the other contest winners, met the band members and practiced the songs they would play on stage. “It was the most surreal experience of my life,” said Murphy. “I spent the whole day trying to figure out if I was still asleep.” On meeting the band, Murphy says it was just like meeting new friends. “I had an amazing time. There were about 30 of us playing instruments ranging from the harp to the didgeridoo.”

As for his plans for the future, Murphy wants to continue working on films and music and maybe someday open his own studio. “I want to continue with graduate school and maybe focus on sound engineering,” said Murphy. “Being a Studio Production major at Wilmington University has been great because it has allowed me to integrate my two great passions: video production and music.”
THE RN TO BSN PROGRAM has seen substantial growth over the last year and continues to develop new initiatives to meet student needs. Two major projects for 2008-2009 are distance-learning course development and offering, and implementation of the new Pathways program for RNs.

DISTANCE LEARNING

The Nursing faculty is excited about distance-learning courses since nursing students will have more flexibility in completing their degree. Faculty members involved in distance learning development have completed special training to make these courses relevant and engaging. Course development began in September 2008 and distance-learning courses will be available in January 2009. One course will be available in this format each block.

RN TO BSN PATHWAYS PROGRAM

The RN to BSN Pathways program is an accelerated degree-completion program for nurses with a Bachelor’s degree in another field. We accept up to 86 transfer credits for this program, and for students meeting pre-requisites, a 31-credit nursing core and three-credit statistics course will meet the 120-credit requirement for graduation.

There is also an opportunity for students who want to complete their MSN degree. Students in the Pathways program are automatically accepted in the BSN to MSN option.

This allows students to take courses at the undergraduate and graduate
level to complete their BSN degree. Then, students complete the remaining graduate-level courses to obtain the MSN degree.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

The RN to BSN program continues to grow at Cumberland County College. The faculty is very pleased with the response to initial marketing efforts, which resulted in 24 students starting the program in September of 2008. We have experienced amazing growth here, with more than 100 students now pursuing their BSN degree at this site. Student feedback has been very positive and much of our growth can be attributed to student referrals.

MEET LIZ FLEMINGS

Anna Elizabeth “Liz” Flemings is the Senior Administrative Assistant for the Division of Nursing & Allied Health. Liz is retired from the Navy and is a former LPN — she says she returned to her “roots” when she began working in our Division several years ago. Originally from New York, Liz now lives with her daughter, Brianna, and two dogs in New Castle. She is truly a life-long learner and is currently working on her second Master’s degree! When you call us with questions or for information about our programs, it is usually Liz who is your first contact. She is extremely knowledgeable about our Division and programs and sometimes is seen working at our marketing events. Her sense of humor and pride in our Division keep us going on busy days. For first-hand information about the Division of Nursing & Allied Health, call Liz at 302-356-6915.

Wilmington University and the Nurse Educator Shortage

Most Americans are aware of the nursing shortage, but many are not cognizant of the serious shortage of nurse educators we are also facing. The average nurse educator is about 54 years old and nurse educators are retiring faster than they are being replaced. The long-term impact on the deepening nursing shortage is obvious.

Wilmington University’s graduate nursing program is doing its part to help this shortage through its MSN in Nursing Leadership - Educator concentration. This concentration is the largest of our three concentrations and prepares nurse educators to teach students, clients and staff. In Delaware, we have program graduates teaching at all three of the Del Tech locations and at Beebe School of Nursing. Our graduates are also teaching in programs in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia and Texas. Nurse Practitioners sometimes end up teaching too — we have Nurse Practitioner graduates teaching at the University of Delaware, Temple and Jefferson, to name a few.

We are helping to reduce the nursing shortage — one nurse educator graduate at a time.

ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM

The Allied Health Degree Completion program was started in the fall of 2006 in response to community need. Unlike most institutions, Wilmington University accepts up to 75 credits toward the Bachelor’s degree, including credits specific to individual allied health careers. Our interdisciplinary offerings prepare graduates to advance in their careers in either management or education and to pursue graduate studies.

The Allied Health program continues to grow and now has a total of 51 students and 12 graduates. Management is the largest track with 33 students, but the education track continues to expand and now has 18 students.

Courses are offered in a variety of formats including face to face, hybrid, and entirely online. All courses in the management track are available through distance learning.

For questions about the program, contact Liz Flemings at 302-356-6915 or Liz.m.flemings@wilmu.edu.

HELLO AND GOODBYE!

A hearty hello goes out to ANITA MURPHY, MSN, RN — our newest faculty member. She is a graduate of Trenton State College and Wilmington University, and will be based in Cumberland County. Murphy lives in New Jersey with her six children. Her husband, also a nurse, is currently serving in Iraq.

A special goodbye goes to MARIA WEEKS, who has left full-time employment at the University so she can spend more time with her family. Weeks will continue to serve as an adjunct faculty member for the Division of Nursing & Allied Health.
Read-to-Succeed Program

Education graduate students participate in summer Read-to-Succeed program to help youth in the area improve their literacy.

Wilmington University, in partnership with the Elizabeth House Family Center, launched an out-of-school Read-to-Succeed summer program to help youth aged 10 to 18 improve their literacy and comprehension skills. Seventeen graduate students from Wilmington University’s Master of Education in Reading program tutored 34 youth this past summer at the Tiberi Center located in the Belvedere area in Wilmington, Del. This six-week program, which is the first of its kind in the area, consisted of one-on-one reading tutoring, technology and literacy activities, and life skills activities provided by The Elizabeth House Family Life Center.

“Wilmington University has always been committed to giving back to the community,” said Kathryn Brown, Coordinator of the Master of Reading program. “So when I started here two years ago, I began looking for ways to get involved, and when Reverend Maurice Butler of The Elizabeth House Family Life Center approached Dr. Richard Gochnauer, Dean of the Division, with the idea of a summer reading program, we thought it was the perfect opportunity.”

Chi Phi Chapter Holds Annual Initiation Ceremony

The officers and members of the Chi Phi Chapter honor society initiated 27 new members into Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society aimed at promoting service and recognizing outstanding achievement in education. Family members and friends joined the full-time faculty of the Division of Education in celebrating the academic
These 17 graduate students, who are certified elementary, middle and secondary school teachers, must take this six-credit clinical course as part of the Master of Reading program at Wilmington University. The mandatory course is one of four clinical courses the graduate students must complete before graduation.

“The program has been a huge success,” said Maurice Butler, President of The Elizabeth House Family Life Center. “This is the first summer we have had this program, but we hope to continue it year-round. Our goal is to help youth by enhancing their literacy, comprehension and other technical skills necessary to perform and test well academically.”

Janis McDonnell, a teacher in the Kennett School District, tutored two children this summer. “I think it’s a fantastic program,” she said. “I’ve seen a genuine improvement in the kids I tutor; they seem very excited. I also like the one-on-one format because I can focus on one student and work on their specific needs.”

Thanks to the success of the first Read-to-Succeed program, Wilmington University and the Elizabeth House Family Life Center will continue the program through 2008-2009 with hopes to continue on indefinitely.

Congratulations to adjunct faculty member Bob Lingenfelter who has been named Delaware History Teacher of the Year for 2008. Bob Lingenfelter teaches Integrated Approaches to Teaching Elementary Social Studies and Integrated Approaches to Teaching Middle Level Social Science in New Castle. He has been teaching American history and social studies at Skyline Middle School in the Red Clay School District for the past 13 years.

“This award gives us the chance to recognize great history teachers across the country,” said Lesley Herrmann, Executive Director of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. “It puts exceptional educators front and center.”

Lingenfelter, a Middletown resident, receives a $1,000 honorarium and is now in the running for the National History Teacher of the Year Award to be selected this fall. Skyline Middle School’s library will also receive a core archive of history books and materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

“The selection committee selected Bob due to his high-quality teaching practices,” said Preston Shockley, Education Associate for Delaware’s Department of Education and State Coordinator for the History Teacher of the Year program. “Bob’s students participate in simulations and hands-on performance tasks that help them envision the impact they can have on the world.”

Regarding his approach to teaching, Lingenfelter stated, “My philosophy is creating an environment where my students can relive America’s past, understand her journey and learn that this great country is theirs to keep, too. They must take a stand for what they believe in, defend that position, and make their contributions to help those less fortunate.”

Added Lingenfelter, “My students are my energy, my future, my heroes.”

The Division of Education at Wilmington University is fortunate to count Bob Lingenfelter among its adjunct faculty members, and proud to have him as a part of our teacher preparatory team. He is the perfect model for our teacher candidates as they begin their careers teaching our next generation of leaders.

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In May 2007, a group of Wilmington University staff led by Dr. Betty Caffo, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, met to discuss tutoring, testing and remedial services offered at Wilmington and how they could be enhanced.

It was out of this meeting that the idea to form a Student Success Center came about. This center would offer a variety of services to Wilmington University students and ensure that all students were receiving the support and guidance they needed. Peg Mitchell, reporting to Dr. Jim Wilson, was appointed manager of the Student Success Center.

The next step in setting up this center was to conduct interviews with 34 faculty, staff and administrators. “We also gathered information from other higher education institutions,” said Mitchell. “We wanted to see what services were being offered to students throughout the nation, and what services we would like to implement.”

Soon an Advisory Committee was formed consisting of various Wilmington University staff. This Committee developed a mission statement, designed the center in the Audrey K. Doberstein Admissions Center, and came up with a new enticing name (after getting input from their student focus groups). The center officially was named the Student Success Center.

“The Student Success Center provides professional tutoring, mentorship, free online tutoring, study skill workshops and academic support to our students,” said Mitchell. “We also wanted to stress that although the Center is located at the New Castle campus we have made sure our services are available to students at all of our sites.”

In September 2008 the Student Success Center held its grand kick-off weekend with information tables at various sites, and free success seminars. Peg Mitchell and Hillary Strachan, Administrative Assistant at the Student Success Center, also visited more than 30 classrooms to introduce the center and its services.

Since the center opened, Mitchell and Strachan have been getting some positive feedback from faculty and students alike. Evelyn Marcano, an undergraduate student in the Education program, said, “Part of my success is thanks to the Student Success Center. I am getting excellent grades in my classes, and my instructors are very happy with me. I was very apprehensive about coming back to school because my husband was shipped off to Iraq and I have three small children. However, my apprehension turned into confidence, and I now tell all my fellow students about the Student Success Center.”

“It has been very exciting to see the Student Success Center come to fruition,” said Mitchell. “I am honored to be working with so many highly trained, professional tutors and to see how they, along with the Center’s other services, are assisting Wilmington University students in their academic success.”
This decision reflected a serious and ongoing need to gather together all of the computer equipment that supports the entire University into one area that has the appropriate temperature controls, electrical power, system monitoring and fire suppression systems. Previous sites for the equipment were spread across the campus and there was limited ability to properly care for existing equipment or add additional equipment.

The University currently has 45 physical servers, 60 virtual servers and two Storage Area Networks (SAN) to run our systems. There is an increasing need for centralized data storage with diverse accessibility. Online capabilities have dramatically increased for students, faculty and staff. As a result there are technology needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Future initiatives include streaming video and audio, as well as video conferencing. These offerings require an increase in IT infrastructure and the ability for IT staff to monitor equipment around the clock.

After considering many alternatives, Room 100 in the Alumni Center was chosen as the ideal site for the Data Center. A properly designed Data Center maximizes physical space, increases airflow efficiency and reduces overall power consumption. RC Peoples and Wilmington University facilities completed the outside construction of a new roof and an addition to house a generator and transformer. Inside Room 100 a new floor, new walls and ceiling were installed, as well as extensive cabling and wiring, and equipment for monitors and alerts. The project also includes new fiber being run in all the buildings on the New Castle campus. This fiber supports higher bandwidth and allows for redundant connections between each building and the Data Center.

The new Data Center sets the stage for current and future growth in enrollment and technology needs. It severely reduces the risk of downtime for any reason and enables the IT department to set up a disaster recovery site in Dover. This project will provide the vital infrastructure for decades of future growth and Information Technology capabilities for Wilmington University.

After 12 months of research, on May 18, 2008, contracts were signed with Delaware Valley Liebert (DVL) and RC Peoples to construct a new Data Center for Wilmington University.
gas prices two Wilmington University faculty members are breaking free from the daily grind. Professors John Burbage and Thomas Brennan have decided to say goodbye to gasoline and try something new.

BREAKING INTO BIODIESEL

Associate professor and Science Coordinator John Burbage may teach numerous courses at Wilmington University, but his true passion lies in a small bottle on his office bookshelf. This small bottle is filled with a fluorescent yellow liquid that Burbage uses to run his diesel engine car — a fluid better known as biodiesel.

Burbage has been interested in alternative fuels since he began driving in the late 1970s. “At the time the country was in the midst of an energy crisis,” recalls Burbage, “and as a new driver, I was greeted with shortages in gasoline that led to long lines at the pump. Many gas stations were running out of gas or limiting the amount that could be purchased.” He decided right then and there that he was not going to continue to be dependent on gasoline, and he began his quest to find an alternate fuel.
About five years ago Burbage began to read about biodiesel, a renewable fuel made from vegetable oil or animal fat, which could run in a diesel engine. Biodiesel had several environmental benefits including the fact that it burns cleaner than petroleum diesel and contains essentially no sulfur (meaning it would produce less acid rain).

Burbage began to do some Internet research on biodiesel. “I realized that the process of making biodiesel was very similar to the process of making soap, a laboratory experiment that I have the students do in my Applied Chemistry class,” says Burbage. “So while the students made soap, I began making biodiesel.”

Soon Burbage decided it was time to put his fuel to the test. “I picked up an old 1986 VW golf diesel from a neighbor and began to make my own fuel from the grease that was removed from the fryers in the Wilmington University Café,” remembers Burbage. He was convinced the fuel would work and was safe for the engine, so he bought a newer VW jetta diesel and has been driving it on biodiesel for the past two and a half years.

From the outside no one can tell that Burbage is using an alternative fuel in his blue jetta. But once a week Burbage goes to the University café to gather the used canola oil from their fryers. He then takes the oil and puts it through several processes including heating, mixing with other chemicals, settling and draining. The biodiesel is then ready to use in a diesel engine car.

So, is biodiesel the fuel choice of the future? Burbage says we still need to find a more reliable fuel that is not also one of our food sources. “Currently biodiesel is made from oil seed crops which may also be used for food. We need to be careful that we do not jeopardize our food supply to make fuel,” says Burbage. So what’s the answer? Burbage says there are new strains of algae that are being tested as an oil source. “These algae grow quickly and can be grown in a relatively small area,” explains Burbage, “In the future, biodiesel from algae may represent a significant percentage of our transportation fuel.”

EXAMINING THE ELECTRIC CAR

Thomas Brennan, adjunct professor at Wilmington University, drives an old yellow Volkswagen beetle. From the outside this 1974 beetle looks no different than any other car on the road, but on the inside the car is running on a brand new type of technology: this car is electric.

Like John Burbage, Brennan stood in line at the pump in the midst of an energy crisis in the late 1970s. He thought to himself that there had to be another way, and he was determined to find it.

A few years ago Brennan began reading about the availability of components needed to build an electric car. He decided to take a hand at building his own electric car. “I realized that oil was not an infinite resource, and that gave me incentive to go electric,” says Brennan. “By building this electric car I wanted to show that an electric car is a viable alternative to the
internal combustion engine, and that it can be built economically,” says Brennan, who added that he also wanted to do his bit to save the planet.

In order to start building his electric car, a car that Brennan had been dreaming of building all his life, he assembled a team of people. “I was lucky to find several people in the area that were eager and willing to help work on this project,” says Brennan, “It was nice to work with a group of mechanics, innovators and researchers to help make this dream a reality.” Over the course of a year the team worked night and day to transform the VW beetle into an electric car.

So how does an electric car work? An electric car uses electric motors and motor controllers instead of an internal combustion engine. The car actually runs on a battery that needs to be charged. “Unlike hybrid vehicles, the electric car does not run on fuel at all, instead it runs on a battery,” says Brennan. “With my electric car I decided to go with a Direct Current (DC) motor with a controller managing the power from the lead acid batteries. My car will use Ultracapacitors for acceleration and hill climbing to relieve the batteries of the excessive drain caused by those two activities.”

The electric car drives almost exactly the same as a regular car with one exception: recharging the battery. “Batteries get depleted and the driver needs to recharge,” says Brennan. “The great thing is you can simply plug them into a standard wall outlet and the driver can recharge almost anywhere.” The charging takes a few hours, but Brennan says with advancements of lithium batteries the car may soon be able to charge in a few minutes. “What I love about the electric car is that it does not pollute the atmosphere, it’s quiet and it’s very economical,” says Brennan. “When I have the capability to use solar and wind power to generate electricity, I will have the ultimate in ‘green’ transportation.”

Although the car is not 100 percent complete yet, Brennan, who is a self-proclaimed optimist, hopes the car will be ready soon and wants to enter it in car shows. “I hope that more electric cars will become available to the general public in the future. If automobile manufacturers were serious in promoting electric vehicles, their leadership could be a positive force in teaching us all to conserve our resources.”

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The sun is setting in the big purple sky as your plane pushes through another fluffy cloud. You stare out in front of you and navigate the plane, concentrating on the tasks at hand.

Tonight you will be sleeping in Tokyo and tomorrow night you will be jetting out to Dubai.

This is the life of Ben Rich, a Wilmington University alumnus and pilot for Emirates Airlines. Rich flies the world’s largest twinjet, the Boeing 777, which carries about 300 passengers and lands in destinations all over the world. “What I love about flying is no two days are the same and it is never boring,” says Rich. “One day I am in London or Africa and the next day I am climbing the Great Wall of China in Beijing, like yesterday for instance.”

“I started flying planes seven days after my 17th birthday,” recalls Rich, a native of Silver Spring, Md. After graduating high school in the summer of 1971, he heard about a small school in Delaware named Wilmington College. One of the few colleges in the area to offer an Aviation Management and Flight Training program, Wilmington College instantly caught his eye. Once he arrived at the College he felt instantly at home. “The small cadre of folks living in the dorms (which were converted motel rooms) shared a special bond,” recalls Rich, saying that he always felt part of the family. “Since the school had opened only three years earlier, we knew we were on the leading edge of something special, and being such a small school then everyone knew everyone else.”

While studying Aviation Management, Rich took time to bond with his fellow Wildcats. “Our favorite pastime was ‘mud football’ between the motel buildings when it rained or snowed,” says Rich, who also played on the Wilmington College baseball team along with his roommate, Ben Ferrell. “Ben and I are still friends to this day and remain in contact. We are usually the most ‘senior’ roommates at the alumni events.”

After graduating in 1974, Rich joined the United States Air Force and was on active duty for the next 11 years. While in the Air Force he worked as an Air Traffic Control Officer, attended Pilot Training and flew transports. “In 1988 after leaving Active Duty, I was hired on with American Airlines,” says Rich, who served as a captain on the B-727 and MD-80 aircrafts. He retired for the second time in 2007, but before long his passion for flying led him back to the skies. “In February of 2007 I headed to Dubai, where I came aboard as captain on the B-777 Jumbo Jet for Emirates Airlines,” states Rich, who now lives in the Emirate of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

This past September, Rich and his wife Sherrie made a special trip to his old college in New Castle for the Alumni Picnic. “I wanted my wife to see what was such an important part of my past,” says Rich, who still remembers the school when it was in its infancy. “If it weren’t for a small motel in New Castle and a young college president with a vision, I would not be the captain of an international jumbo jet today,” says Rich.

“It is hard to describe how intimate the College was in the 1970s. It was a family and we were all in it together,” recalls Rich, who will officially retire and set down his wings in 2012. “While the changes to the school have been enormous, the roots of our years are still there with the Dog House, the bridge, the airport and the LRC that was built my first year there.”

So what’s next for Rich? He wants to continue traveling the world. “There is not a bigger cruise ship fan in the world. I am addicted to cruises; big ships, small ships, medium sized ships, you name it. I have had to curtail the activity while in Dubai, but I fully plan to get back to sea when I retire from Emirates.”

This Wildcats Has Wings
INTRODUCING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD AND CHAPTER CHAIRS

As alumni of Wilmington University, you are in a position to understand our educational missions, needs and goals. Active involvement and commitment provides an opportunity for you to share in the success of our current students. This is why we welcome you to join us in alumni meetings and activities at the University. To become an active member or to serve as a Chapter Chair, please contact The Alumni Relations Department.

Phone: 302.356.4636
Email: alumni@wilmu.edu

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**THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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President
Marilyn Simpson ’02 B.S., ’04 M.B.A
Vice President
Arlene Johnson ’02 M.S
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Dolores Szymanski ’08 Ed.D.
New Jersey Chapter Chair

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The Alumni Association Chapter Chairs (from left): Thomas Gaynor ’01, Steve Flaherty ’00, Julie Marquette ’07, James Friant ’95, Brian Adair ’07, Johna-Lee Ingraham ’95, Patricia Burrell ’05, Dalia Nichols ’02. Not shown: Cheyann Gilroy ’06, Joseph Pro ’98, Dolores Szymanski ’08.
ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

79
William (Bill) Yerger (M.B.A. Business Administration) of St. Petersburg, Fla., is a master hypnotherapist. Bill also earned his B.B.A. in Business Management from Wilmington University in 1972. As a member of the first graduating class of Wilmington University, Bill played a major role in the early days of the University. He was a charter member and co-founder of the Alumni Association, served as the first treasurer and later served in other association board positions for more than eight years. He was one of the first members in the Donald E. Ross Honor Society and was a recipient of the Dr. Audrey K. Doberstein Leadership Award in 1979. Bill and his wife Barbara have a son, Bill, and daughter, Lisa. They are extremely proud that their daughter Lisa Hurst earned her B.A. degree in Human Resources Management from Wilmington University in 2007.

80
Dr. Steven LaMont Isler, Sr. (B.B.A. Business Management) of Burlingame, Calif., is a director and tax attorney for Tax Management & Compliance for Tax Centers Inc., located in San Francisco, Calif. Dr. Isler completed his classes at the University’s Dover Air Force Base site and, as a result, became an air force officer, attorney, and part-time professor for 11 years. “Obviously, I could not have done this without Wilmington University,” stated Dr. Isler.

84
Donna Smith-Moore (B.B.A. Business Management) of Bridgeville, Del., was recently inducted into the Delaware Technical and Community College Alumni Walk of Success. Donna, assistant site manager at Wilmington University’s Georgetown site, was honored for her significant contributions to the community, personal accomplishments and career achievements. She is also a 1983 journalism graduate of Delaware Technical and Community College and a 1992 M.Ed. graduate of the University of Delaware.

91
Major Paul Eckrich (M.S. Human Resources Management) of Georgetown, Del., has been appointed to the position of city manager of Lewes, Del. Major Eckrich was a Delaware state trooper for nearly 23 years and served as administrative budget officer for the state police. His career experience is an asset to his new position as city manager.

93
Deborah A. Markwood (B.S. Business Management) of Wilmington, Del., has been named vice president business development officer for WSFS Wealth Strategies for the WSFS Financial Corporation. She is also a graduate of the Cannon Financial Institute Personal Trust School. Deborah currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Southern Delaware Estate Planning Council.

96
Sherry Clark (M.Ed. School Administration) of Newark, Del., is a librarian for the New Castle County Vo-Tech School District. Sherry earned National Board Certification as a Library Media Specialist in 2003.

98
Dr. Richard W. Hillyer, Sr., (M.S. Health Care Administration) has relocated to Cape Coral, Fla. He is the owner of Hillyer Consulting. Dr. Hillyer also earned his M.B.A. from Wilmington University in 1996 and his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Simmons College in Boston in 2007.

99
Dr. Gloria Lester (M.S.N. Women’s Health) of Lewes, Del., is an OB/GYN Practitioner at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. Dr. Lester is an adjunct professor at Wilmington University and Delaware Technical and Community College. She is a member of the Delaware Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health, and many other professional organizations and honor societies. Dr. Lester also earned her M.S. in Human Resources Management in 1991 and her Ed.D. in Education in 1995 from Wilmington University.

Laura Mitchell (M.B.A. Business Administration) of Salisbury, Md., is a faculty member at Wor-Wic Community College. Laura also earned her B.A. in Accounting in 1998 from Wilmington University.

00
Keith Allen Gouge (M.Ed. Middle Level Education) of Holly Springs, N.C., is a middle school social studies teacher at Wake County School. Keith is coach of the girl’s softball team and defensive coordinator for the football team.

Linda Ann Kucher (M.S.N. Nursing) of North Providence, R.I., is an instructor for the School of Nursing at St. Joseph’s Health Care Service of Rhode Island.

01
Dr. Debbie A. Bullock (Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership) of Wilmington, Del., has been appointed as the new director of
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

A few months ago the Alumni Relations department sent out a letter inviting all alumni to the annual alumni picnic. Many people who received this letter loved this picture but they wanted to know, who are these people? Well here they are:

From left: Tina Scott ‘03, Director of Student Affairs; Nicole Purcell-Rowe, University Relations; Joe Houghton ’98, Alumni Association President; Dwight Robinson, Information Technology; Audrey Mattern-Parajon ’04, Michael Blume ’02, Admissions; Marilyn Simpson ’04, Alumni Association Vice President; Admissions; Pattie Jennings, Alumni Relations Coordinator; Paul Patton ’05, University Relations; Jane West ’08, Alumni Relations Events Coordinator; Josh Purcell ’08; Suki Deen, University Relations; Joanne Green ’97, Alumni Association Account Manager.

human resources at the historic Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Bullock is President of the Delaware Alliance of Black School Educators. She is an adjunct professor in the doctoral studies program at Wilmington University. Dr. Bullock also earned her M.S. degrees in Human Resources Management and Personnel Management from Wilmington University in 1994.

Alan A. Downes (M.S. Public Administration) of Ocean Pines, Md., is director of credit for Tri-Gas & Oil Co. Inc. Alan recently graduated from a 12-week course by Dale Carnegie & Associates emphasizing communication and leadership. Alan also earned his B.S. in Human Resources Management from Wilmington University in 1998.

Denise Blevins (M.S. Public Administration) of Springfield, Va., is a procurement analyst for the Department of the Air Force, District of Washington. Denise also earned her B.S. in Human Resources Management in 2001. Denise and her husband, Capt. P. Shane Blevins, and their sons Brenden and Blake are enjoying their new home in Virginia.

Capt. P. Shane Blevins, (M.S. Human Resources Management) of Springfield, Va., is chief of the Commissioning Programs Policy Branch for the United States Air Force at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Prior to his assignment at the Pentagon, he completed a two-year tour as the Air Force ROTC director of operations at the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. Capt. Blevins earned his B.S. in Criminal Justice from Wilmington University in 2001.

Edwin L. Lashley (M.S. Human Resources Management) of Salisbury, Md., retired in April 2005 with the rank of lieutenant colonel from the Maryland State Police, where he commanded 1,100 Maryland state troopers. Following a nationwide search, Edwin was selected to be chief of police for Salisbury University. He graduated in 2000 from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., and also earned his B.S. in General Studies from Wilmington University in 2001.

Anne Oakes (M.Ed. School Counseling) relocated to Cape Coral, Fla., and is a guidance counselor at the Oasis Charter Elementary School. Anne also earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from Wilmington University in 1996.

Lore Sackett (B.S. General Studies) of Wilmington, Del., works for the Social Security Administration as an equal opportunity counselor. Lore serves as a bridge between aggrieved individuals and managers in resolving employment-related disputes. She received a Social Security Administration Award for outstanding work in her position.
THE 2008 ALUMNI PICNIC

About 328 Wilmington University alumni, guests, faculty and staff braved tropical storm Hanna to attend the annual Alumni Picnic held on Saturday, September 6 at Wilmington University’s New Castle campus. Under a massive tent to protect them from the wind and rain, alumni from far and wide mingled, enjoyed the food and danced to the sound of the Big Package band.
04
Kristie Cupples-Fitzpatrick (M.Ed. School Counseling) of Conshohocken, Pa., is an elementary school counselor at the Paul V. Fly Elementary School in the Norristown Area School District.

Jennifer Frederico (M.Ed. School Leadership) of Hammonton, N.J., has been appointed principal of Petway Elementary School in Vineland, N.J. Jennifer also earned her Bachelor's degrees in sociology and elementary education and her Master's degree in reading education from Rowan University.

DuJuan E. Green (B.S. Criminal Justice) of Mountain View, Calif., works for the Palo Alto Police Department. He is a field training officer, crime scene investigator team member and crisis intervention team member. DuJuan's course work was interrupted when he was called back to active duty in March 2003 and spent five months in Baghdad. He returned and commuted two hours from Washington, DC, to Wilmington University to complete his degree. DuJuan and wife Christina are the proud parents of one-year-old daughter Mia.

05
Nicole Lee Benderoth (B.S.N. Nursing) of Elkton, Md., works as a weekend nurse with Christiana Care Health Systems. She has been employed there for eight years and enjoys the flexibility her nursing

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

WILMINGTON MANOR LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

The Wilmington Manor Lions Club and Wilmington University presented the Wilmington Manor Lions Club Scholarship to Kyle C. Hitchens. The Director of Admissions, Chris Ferguson, and members of the Wilmington Manor Lions Club Scholarship Selection Committee congratulated Hitchens on his achievement. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Wilmington University student who resided in the membership area of the Wilmington Manor Lions Club.

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY AND CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE’S PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIP

Cumberland County College student Edwin Colon received the Presidents Scholarship, which is presented annually by the President of Wilmington University and Cumberland County College to a graduating Cumberland County College student who excels in leadership and service. The award will assist Colon in receiving his Bachelor’s degree from Wilmington University, where he will be majoring in Criminal Justice.
career offers, as her major focus is raising daughter Olivia, age two. Nicole’s long-term plans include continuing her education in hopes of receiving her M.S.N. and becoming either an educator or nurse practitioner.

Brendon J. McLeroy (B.S. Criminal Justice) of Mountain Home, Idaho, is a material manager with the United States Air Force. Brendon is part of the 366th Gunfighters and is responsible for making sure all the F-15’s have their parts in a timely manner so that missions can be completed successfully. “Serving my country and lending a helping hand is what I’ve always wanted to do.” Brendon received Troop of the Month in the material management flight department and plans on receiving that honor again.

Patricia Gam Simpson (M.B.A. Health Care Administration) of Middletown, Del., was appointed corporate director of Medicaid Compliance with Aetna Health Care in January 2008. Patricia is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of regulatory compliance for Aetna’s Medicaid product line. She also received her B.S. in Business Management from Wilmington University in 1998.

Dr. Claudia Hearst Curry (Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership) of Yeadon, Pa., is the founding director of the Community College of Philadelphia’s Women’s Center. She has authored an academic monograph titled “Understanding the Empowerment Phenomenon: Effects of a Pilot Women’s Empowerment Program on Female College Students.” Dr. Curry, a well-known keynoter, motivational speaker, and workshop presenter, is also an adjunct instructor in the College’s Liberal Studies Department at the Community College of Philadelphia. Additionally, she was recently appointed adjunct professor for the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa.

Dr. Pamela Hill (Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership) of Elkton, Md., is a professional growth and development specialist with Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Dr. Hill works on such projects as cultural proficiency, dimensions of learning, thinking maps, rigor and engagement, and multiple other online courses.

Andrea M. Steele (M.Ed. Special Education) of Federalsburg, Md., is employed by the Caroline County Board of Education as a self-contained special education teacher. She has worked with a local high school for three years and is the proud owner of her first home.

Elizabeth Cotter Atwood (M.Ed. Special Education) of Bishopville, Md., is a special education teacher for the Worcester County Board of Education. She works at the Cedar Chapel Special School in Snow Hill, Md. Elizabeth states, “Receiving my Master’s and certification from Wilmington University was the best decision I have ever made!”

Lisa Marie Beatson (M.B.A. Business Administration) of Newark, Del., is an assistant vice president of Bank of America. Lisa also received her B.S. in Business Management from Wilmington University in 2003.

Terri Nolan (B.S. Legal Studies) of Pembroke, N.H., has recently relocated to attend Franklin Pierce Law School. Terri has been chosen as the class governor for the Entertainment Law Society.

Joshua P. Quinn (B.S. Information Resource Management) of Rockville, Md., is a senior systems engineer with the law firm Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C.
Anis D. El Okbani (M.B.A. Business Administration) of Dover, Del., is a network operations supervisor with Comcast Cable. Anis also received his B.S. in Business Management from Wilmington University in 2006.

Ashlyn Houska (M.B.A. Business Administration) of Atlanta, Ga., is the international marketing project coordinator for Golden Key International Honor Society. Golden Key is the largest national honor society in the world for college students.

Denise Hubbell (B.S. General Studies) of Dover, Del., works as a civilian logistics technician at the Dover Air Force Base. In addition to her civil service, Denise is a senior master sergeant in the Delaware Air National Guard, where she is a nursing services superintendent. She also works as an x-ray technician and relief technician for BayHealth. Denise credits the Air Force for offering her both training and education opportunities. She is currently enrolled in the Master’s program in public administration at Wilmington University and plans to graduate in 2010.

Christine Murphy (M.Ed. Reading) of Newark, Del., is a reading specialist and reading coach for the Colonial School District in New Castle, Del.

Eric Pugh (M.Ed. Instruction) of Wilmington, Del., is a special education teacher at the High Road School of Delaware. Eric was promoted to head teacher at the school and is working toward his third Master’s degree in elementary special education at Wilmington University. Eric also earned his M.Ed. in School Leadership from Wilmington University in 2007.

Dr. Rosalynd P. Reed-Walker (Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership) of Upper Marlboro, Md., is employed by the Prince Georges Public School District as a music instructor. Rosalynd began her doctoral program while living in Wilmington and working in the Red Clay School District. After relocating to Maryland (her husband pastors a church in Washington, D.C.), Rosalynd commenced to Wilmington University to complete her Doctor of Education, and maintained a 4.0 grade point average. At 62 years of age, she looks forward to continuing research in her field of study and possibly pursuing an additional degree program.

Stacey Samonisky (M.Ed. Elementary Studies) of Newark, Del., spent most of her summer preparing herself and her classroom for the first day of school. Stacey was hired in July as a second-grade teacher at Newark Charter School and eagerly anticipated her first day with her students. She spent weeks creating lesson plans and preparing her classroom. “I just want the kids to come into a classroom that looks like it’s warm and cozy.”

David S. Suah (M.B.A. Finance) has returned to his home in Liberia. David is a vice president for accounts with the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment. As chief accountant, David’s responsibilities include supervising final accounts and financial statements. “Indeed, I am happy I chose WU to further my career. I am happy that I made a decision to return home to a broken people and country to make my contribution towards the reconstruction process. To be honest, WU helped prepare me for such a challenge.” David also earned his B.S. in Business Management from Wilmington University in 2006.

William Walton (B.S. Organizational Management) of Wilmington, Del., is employed by the Delaware State Fire School as a training administrator. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, where he represents the Eastern Division. William is also a newly inducted member of the Institution of Fire Engineers, a worldwide organization which promotes the study and development of the fire engineering disciplines. He has previously been awarded the Chief Fire Officer Designation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Ian M. Gibason (2008 B.S. Computer and Network Security) to LeAnna M. Buehler on May 17, 2008

Elizabeth Anne Plouffe (2005 M.S. Public Administration) to Alexander Havlin Jordan, Jr. on May 17, 2008

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